

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-05

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WHITE HOUSE - MR. G. SCHLEEDE

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P 102245Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH

SUBJECT: N.Y. TIMES ARTICLE ON SECRETARY'S TESTIMONY RE
NUCLEAR FUEL ASSURANCES ACT

1. NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE OF FEBRUARY 7 BY DAVID BINDER
CONTAINS DISTORTED VERSION OF SECRETARY'S FEBRUARY 6 TEST-
IMONY BEFORE JOINT COMMITTEE ON ATOMIC ENERGY REGARDING THE
NUCLEAR FUEL ASSURANCES ACT WHICH WAS SUBMITTED TO THE
CONGRESS BY THE PRESIDENT ON JUNE 26, 1975. BINDER STORY
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ASSERTS THAT THE SECRETARY SAID THAT THE FORD ADMINISTRATION

IS NO LONGER INSISTING ON TRANSFERRING TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF FUTURE URANIUM ENRICHMENT PLANTS AND IS PREPARED TO SUPPORT CONSTRUCTION OF GOVERNMENT-OWNED PLANTS. THIS INTERPRETATION OF SECRETARY'S TESTIMONY IS INCORRECT. ADDRESSEE POSTS SHOULD DRAW ON FOLLOWING IF QUESTIONS ARE RAISED CONCERNING TIMES ARTICLE. GUIDANCE IS BE USED BY WHITE HOUSE.

2. THE SECRETARY OF STATE STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE BILL WHICH WOULD LEAD TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PRIVATE INDUSTRY IN THE U.S. AND HE WISHES HIS SUPPORT TO BE REAFFIRMED. ALSO, IT SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE PRESIDENT CONTINUES TO SUPPORT STRONGLY THE NUCLEAR FUEL ASSURANCE ACT WHICH HE

SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS ON JUNE 26, 1975. THE ADMINISTRATION IS LOOKING FORWARD TO EARLY FAVORABLE ACTION BY THE CONGRESS ON THAT PROPOSAL.

THE BILL SUBMITTED BY THE PRESIDENT WOULD:

-- AUTHORIZE THE ENERGY R&D ADMINISTRATION (ERDA) TO ENTER INTO COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS WITH FIRMS WISHING TO FINANCE, BUILD, OWN AND OPERATE PLANTS THAT ARE NEEDED TO ENRICH URANIUM TO MAKE FUEL FOR COMMERCIAL NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS. SUCH AGREEMENTS COULD PROVIDE FOR GOVERNMENT COOPERATION AND TEMPORARY ASSURANCES NEEDED TO BEGIN THE TRANSITION TO A PRIVATE COMPETITIVE INDUSTRY AND END THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT MONOPOLY.

-- PROVIDE FOR CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF ANY PROPOSED COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BEFORE IT WAS SIGNED.

-- AUTHORIZE CONTINUED DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION PLANNING WORK FOR A GOVERNMENT OWNED ENRICHMENT FACILITY, IN THE EVENT PRIVATE FIRMS WERE UNABLE TO PROCEED.

3. IF A QUESTION IS ASKED ABOUT HOW THE SECRETARY COULD HAVE BEEN MISINTERPRETED, IT CAN BE POINTED OUT THAT:
"ANY COMMENTS ALONG THE LINES ATTRIBUTED TO THE SECRETARY WERE RELATED ONLY TO THE NEED FOR GOVERNMENT CONSTRUCTION
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IF PRIVATE FIRMS WERE UNABLE TO PROCEED. THIS UNLIKELY EVENTUALITY HAS ALWAYS BEEN PROVIDED FOR IN THE ADMINISTRATION POSITION." KISSINGER

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